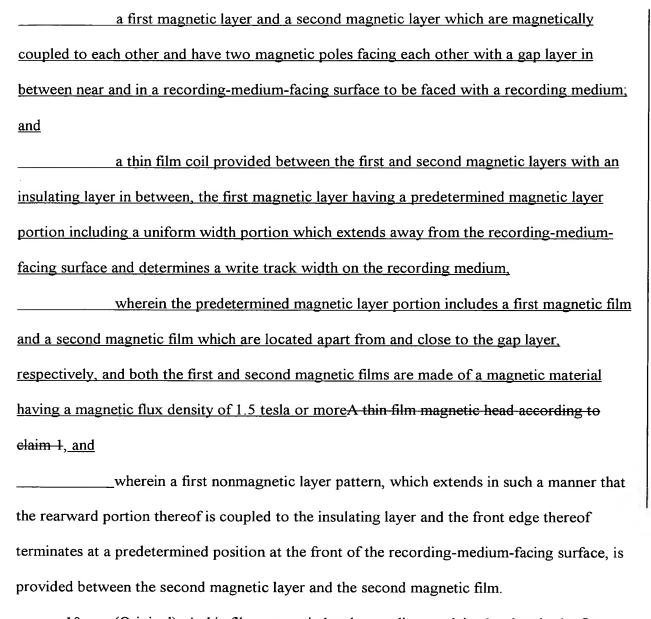
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head according to claim +9, wherein at least one of the first and second magnetic films is made of either an alloy containing at least nickel and iron or iron nitride.
- 3. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 2, wherein the alloy containing nickel and iron further contains at least cobalt.
- 4. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the first and second magnetic films is made of a material containing an amorphous alloy.
- 5. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 4, wherein the amorphous alloy is an alloy made of cobalt and iron, an oxide of an alloy made of zirconium, cobalt and iron, or a nitride of an alloy made of zirconium and iron.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 19, wherein the first magnetic film is made of an alloy containing at least nickel, iron and cobalt, and the second magnetic film is made of either an alloy containing at least nickel and iron or an alloy made of cobalt and iron.
- 7. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 19, wherein an interface between the first and second magnetic films is flat.
- 8. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 6, wherein an interface between the first and second magnetic films is flat.
 - 9. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head including:



- 10. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 9, wherein the first nonmagnetic layer pattern is made of a nonmagnetic metal.
- 11. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 8, wherein a first nonmagnetic layer pattern, which extends in such a manner that the rearward portion thereof is coupled to the insulating layer and the front edge thereof terminates at a predetermined position at the front of the recording-medium-facing surface, is provided between the second magnetic layer and the second magnetic film.

- 12. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 11, wherein the first nonmagnetic layer pattern is made of a nonmagnetic metal.
- 13. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 10, wherein a second nonmagnetic layer pattern, which extends in such a manner that the rearward portion thereof is coupled to the insulating layer and the front edge thereof terminates rearward with respect to the front edge of the first nonmagnetic layer pattern, is further provided between the first nonmagnetic layer pattern and the second magnetic film.
- 14. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 13, wherein the second magnetic layer has a flat surface, and the first and second nonmagnetic layer patterns are inclined to the flat surface of the second magnetic layer at and near the respective front edges of the first and second nonmagnetic layer patterns.
- 15. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 12, wherein a second nonmagnetic layer pattern, which extends in such a manner that the rearward portion thereof is coupled to the insulating layer and the front edge thereof terminates rearward with respect to the front edge of the first nonmagnetic layer pattern, is further provided between the first nonmagnetic layer pattern and the second magnetic film.
- 16. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 15, wherein the second magnetic layer has a flat surface, and the first and second nonmagnetic layer patterns are inclined to the flat surface of the second magnetic layer at and near the respective front edges of the first and second nonmagnetic layer patterns.
- 17. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 14, wherein the front edge of the first nonmagnetic layer pattern is located in a region in which the uniform width portion of the predetermined magnetic layer portion lies.

18. (Original) A thin film magnetic head according to claim 16, wherein the front edge of the first nonmagnetic layer pattern is located in a region in which the uniform width portion of the predetermined magnetic layer portion lies.

19.-43. (Cancelled)